

>>> RICK MOLLAHAN 5/7/04 9:19:44 AM >>>
Marvin,

Thanks. Lots to learn on the go!.

From conversations with Scott Stuewe, The attached constitutes our Formal response. It was discussed at the meeting that we would not respond to the individual questions due to time and staff constraints. Another copy attached. Please forward this response to the appropriate parties.

Thanks.

LTRM Meeting 4/8/04

Attendees:

Scott Stuewe	IDNR	sstuewe@dnrmail.state.il.us
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These notes will be short. Rick Frietsche, USFWS, was connected to the meeting via conference call.

After four and half hours of discussion the following items and recommendations were developed.

Items:

1. This is a long term monitoring program. Data collection is primary and there should be no break in the data stream. Data must be managed, whether it be through a central administrator or through satellite entities.
2. Illinois values all four LTRM stations that are along the waterways that run along or through Illinois jurisdiction. We will definitely be protective of the two field stations, Havana and Brighton, that are operated conjointly with the Illinois Natural History Survey.
3. How much duplication of effort is there? Land cover/use, GIS appears to be duplication, at least for Illinois.
4. Field stations should and can get involved in data analysis and compilation. This appears to be taking place due to the direction of Brian Ickes.

5. Illinois uses the field stations and personnel for informational needs and assistance in developing state policy and resource management. They are vital to the state process.

Recommendations:

A. Identify a base level. We figured on a base level of \$4M annually for the next five years, hoping for additional \$'s, depending on appropriations. It was decided the following components be retained, listed by priority.

1. Fish Component
2. Water Quality
3. Aquatic Vegetation
4. Operational Needs/Equipment Repair & Replacement: *Our thought here is the stations can't do their work when equipment is broken down or obsolete.*
5. Macroinvertebrates

The rest of the components fall in under these five and should be prioritized when and if \$'s become available.

B. Field Stations should complete annual reports with individual status and trend reports. The State of Illinois uses this information in decision making. The System status and trend report will be a special report using the individual reports.

C. All monitoring components need to be critically analyzed and evaluated, just as the fisheries component, for efficiency.

D. Investigate alternatives for another administrative body for oversight of EMP. There appears to be expertise in the Field Stations to pick up some of the oversight that is currently being done in UMESC. Reduce duplication of effort.

E. Expand sampling and data collection to other pools and habitats over time when money and personnel are available. This will result in better system wide information and understanding.